

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	25X1
SUBJECT	General Conditions in Bucharest	DATE DISTR.	23 April 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

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1. With the beginning of warmer weather and a thaw, the morale of the Rumanian people has visibly improved. It had obviously sunk to a very low ebb when the second blizzard hit Bucharest on 17 February 1954, scarcely two weeks after the first one. People were walking around in a daze, spending long hours searching for food and waiting in line to get their Aragaz containers filled, if they could get to the dispensing stations. Snow clearing "volunteers" were quickly swung into action and in just about a week the main boulevards were cleared. It was reported in Bucharest that the town of Giurgiu was flooded and had to be evacuated.
2. Food is still in extremely short supply. Practically all that is available in the State stores are dried herrings at 18 lei a kilo and jams at 7 lei a jar. The peasants exploited the food shortage to the fullest, coming into the city and selling onions at 7 lei a kilo and chickens at 80 lei each. The average worker in Bucharest has been subsisting entirely on bread and sauerkraut pickled at home for the past month.
3. The transportation system of trams and buses in Bucharest, which was inadequate before the start of the blizzards, is now only functioning at about a third of its former inefficient level even though the lines have been cleared.

4. [redacted] the Rumanian Government was making a serious effort to improve the food situation through trade agreements. [redacted] the reason for this was that factory production was suffering as a result of the workers' inadequate diet. [redacted] the main problem and worry of the Rumanian Government was the Rumanian peasant and how to make him produce.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW